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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/542,676	04/03/2000	Jay S. Walker	96-059-1	4522

22927 7590 01/31/2003

WALKER DIGITAL  
FIVE HIGH RIDGE PARK  
STAMFORD, CT 06905

EXAMINER

BUI, THACH H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 01/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/542,676

Applicant(s)

WALKER ET AL.

Examiner

Thach H Bui

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16, 19, 23 and 25-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16, 19 and 28-44 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23 and 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The amendment filed October 11, 2002 has been received and entered.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. Applicant's prior art citation filed July 15, 2002 has been received, considered and placed of record.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 23, 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witek et al.

As per claim 23, Witek et al. teach a computer apparatus comprising a processing unit, and a communication unit in communication with the processing unit, operable to transmit and receive information regarding a second account identifier for use in place of a first account identifier (see Figures 1 and 2) (column 4, line 55- column 7, line 42). Witek et al. do not mention explicitly a memory device. However, Witek et al. teach multiple databases (20) (see Figure 1) containing data representing a plurality of predetermined account identifiers, and data representing status for each of the plurality of predetermined account identifiers (column 11, line 40- column 20, line 62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to realize that the system, as taught by Witek et al., contains a memory device (databases) connecting to the processing unit and the memory device contains data representing a plurality of predetermined account identifiers, and data representing status for each of the plurality of predetermined account identifiers. In addition, Witek et al. also include a program adapted to be executed by the processing unit to receive the second account identifier, compare the second account identifier with at least one of the plurality of predetermined account identifiers to identify account identifier matching the second account identifier, and verify the second account identifier in accordance with the comparing step and the data representing status of the one predetermined account identifier (in this case is to look for a specific advertisement).

As per claim 25, the claim contains features addressed in the above claim, and therefore, is rejected under the same rationale.

As per claim 26, Witek et al. teach a means for receiving a plurality of second account identifiers and each second account identifier is being different from the remaining second account identifiers, and verifying that each of the plurality of second account identifiers indicates a first account identifier, wherein each of the plurality of second account identifiers comprises a second identifier or use in place of a first account identifier (column 12, lines 3-9) (column 12, line 27- column 13, line 29).

As per claim 27, Witek et al. do not mention explicitly the account identifier comprising sixteen digits. It would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill in

the art to set an account identifier at predetermined digits according the size of the parameters defined in the database.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 16, 19 and 28-44 are allowed.

***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Maynard, Kaufman, Loofbourrow et al., and Hansen are cited to teach multiple account identifiers.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thach H Bui whose telephone number is 703-305-0063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough, can be reached on 703-308-0505. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Application/Control Number: 09/542,676  
Art Unit: 3628

Page 5

T.B.  
November 25, 2002

  
Hyung Sub Sough  
Primary Examiner